REMARKS

The Assignee presents the enclosed remarks in response to the Office Action mailed March 17, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended by the present response. The undersigned Attorney for the Assignee respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application and claims in view of the remarks below.

A. Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 7, 9, and 11 because the term "claims" should be "claim." The Assignee respectfully submits that the June 11, 2006 Response to Non-Compliant Amendment amended claims 7, 9, and 11 to read "claim" instead of "claims." Accordingly, the Assignee believes that the claim objections have been traversed.

B. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected the claims as being generally narrative and indefinite, and failing to conform with current U.S. practice. Specifically, the Office Action suggested that the claims "appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document, and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors."

MPEP § 2173.01 states that "a claim may not be rejected solely because of the type of language used to define the subject matter." Furthermore, §2173.02 clarifies that the focus should be on "whether the claim meets the threshold requirements of clarity and precision, not whether more suitable language or modes of expression are available....Some latitude in the

manner of expression and the aptness of terms should be permitted even though the claim language is not as precise as the examiner might desire."

The present claims have been reviewed for grammatical and idiomatic errors, and the present amendments to claim 1 are submitted. If the Examiner can suggest specific correction of any grammatical or idiomatic errors in the pending claims, the Assignee can cooperate to amend the claims accordingly.

C. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable for obviousness in view of *Hasegawa*, JP Patent No. 09117567 (hereinafter "*Hasegawa*") in view of *Walker, et al.* (US Patent No. 6,001,016) (hereinafter "*Walker*"). Please kindly re-examine and reconsider the application in view of the appended remarks.

Hasegawa relates to a keeping device for coins for a game center, but does not disclose a medal keeping and paying system connected to a network. Office Action, p. 5. The Office Action states that *Walker* teaches a credit and player tracing system, that allegedly is analogous to the Hasegawa medal keeping and playing system, and includes a credit and player tracking system connected to a network. *Walker* relates to a remote wagering terminal that is connected to a server through a terminal network, and slot machines that are also connected to the server through a slot network. Col. 3, l. 30 – col. 4, l. 22. A player enters information at the remote wagering terminal, and the server transmits data on the terminal

network to enable the player to remotely play one or more of the slot machines. Col. 3, ll. 40-52. In contrast to the claimed invention, a player cannot enter information directly into the server of *Walker* and the server does not provide any information directly to the player. The server of *Walker* merely acts as a channel for information to pass between the remote terminal and the slot machines. Accordingly, the server is similar to a centralized control unit that lacks any client-type functionality.

For example, amended claim 1 of the Applicants' claimed invention includes an element describing a client apparatus with client-type functionality, and further includes an element describing a server apparatus with client-type functionality. Both the client and server apparatuses are enabled to:

- input at least the count information of the medal keeping means and the right person authorization information; and
- access the operation information storing means through the network interface to output the payment signal based on the count information of at least one medal stored in the operation information storing means.

Thus the claimed invention includes client and server apparatuses, both having client-type functionality. Since the server of *Walker* relates to a centralized server, the server lacks client-type functionality and *Walker* does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons presented above, amended claim 1 is believed to be patentable over at least the cited references.

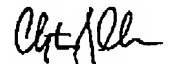
Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11

The Office Action also rejected claims 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable for obviousness in view of *Hasegawa* and *Walker*. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are ultimately dependent from claim 1 for which arguments of patentability have been provided above. If the underlying independent claims are allowable over the cited reference, then the corresponding dependent claims should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are pending, and are believed to be patentable over the cited references. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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